

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01972 081822Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----063332 081838Z /64 S  
O 081800Z APR 78 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 929  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1972

EXDIS  
FROM LOW  
E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: TIME AND PLACE OF MALTA II MEETING

REFLECTING ON THE DIFFERENCES OVER PLACE AND TIMING  
FOR THE MALTA II MEETING WHICH HAVE ARisen, IT APPEARS THAT  
MUGABE'S FAILURE TO APPEAR IN TIME TO CONSULT HIS PATRIOTIC  
FRONT CO-LEADER AND NKOMO'S RESENTMENT AT HAVING DECISIONS  
TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTING HIM WHICH CONFLICTED WITH WHAT HE  
CONSIDERED HIS OWN IMPORTANT PLANS, COMBINED TO CREATE  
MISUNDERSTANDING. NKOMO WILL HAVE LEFT MAPUTO BEFORE MUGABE  
ARRIVES. IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT FOR EITHER TO BACK DOWN FROM  
THE STRONG POSITION HE HAS TAKEN AND THEY MAY SEEK TO TAKE  
REFUGE IN A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING UNTIL APRIL 25-26  
(IN ARUSHA OR DAR). THIS, OF COURSE, IS WHAT WE WISH TO AVOID.

ON THE OTHER HAND IT SEEMS TO ME QUITE LIKELY THAT BLAME  
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FOR THE DIFFERENCES WILL SOON BE DIRECTED FIRST TOWARDS THE  
BRITISH AND THEN TOWARDS US. IT WILL BE CLAIMED THAT WE RUSHED  
THEM AND THAT WE CREATED THE MISUNDERSTANDING BY CONSULTING  
THE PF LEADERS SEPARATELY. WE WILL BE ACCUSED OF DIVIDE AND  
RULE TACTICS.

IN SPITE OF THE DISADVANTAGES THEREFORE I BELIEVE WE SHOULD  
AT THIS STAGE BE CAREFUL ABOUT PUSHING TOO HARD FOR 14-15

OR 15-16 DATES. A TANZANIA MEETING ON 25-26 MIGHT BE BETTER  
THAN NO MEETING AT ALL AND COULD BE THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID  
A LOT OF ILL WILL.  
BOWDLER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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